



Department of Justice

United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton
Middle District of Florida

Tampa	Orlando	Jacksonville	Ocala	Fort Myers
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE			CONTACT: STEVE COLE	
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http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr			FAX: (813) 274-6300	

MORTGAGE FRAUD DEFENDANT FOUND GUILTY IN TAMPA FEDERAL COURT

TAMPA, FL - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces that a federal jury yesterday found Jessica Murillo (age 33, of New Jersey) guilty to wire fraud affecting a financial institution. Murillo faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison. A sentencing date has been set for October 1, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. before U.S. District Judge Richard A. Lazzara.

According to facts presented at trial and court documents, Murillo purchased a brand new four bedroom, three car garage Tampa home (with a pool) for \$345,000. She submitted to the lender false tax returns to support her grossly inflated income; her true tax returns reflected an income of as little as \$10,395 a year while the false tax returns claimed \$96,760. When Murillo was unable to pay her mortgage, she convinced her new neighbors to invest with her their life savings, defrauding them out of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas N. Palermo.

This case is a part of the Middle District of Florida's Mortgage Fraud Initiative, a joint effort by the U.S. Attorney's Office, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement

agencies throughout the Middle District of Florida. It is a “Phase II” case, brought following the initial wave of Mortgage Fraud Initiative prosecutions, the Mortgage Fraud Surge, which occurred over ten months in 2009 and netted more than 100 defendants. Phase II of the Mortgage Fraud Initiative seeks to build upon the Surge, its leads and techniques, to uncover and prosecute increasingly complex mortgage frauds.